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BOROUGH OF PENZANCE

THE

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1953

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Mrs. Councillor K. A. Poole.(deceased)

Vice-Chairman - Councillor H. Watkins.

The Mayor - Councillor J. S. Stephens.(ex officio)

Alderman J. M. Hitchens.(deceased)

Alderman B. D. Stevenson.

Councillor E. M. Cain.

Councillor Miss A. U. Chirgwin.

Councillor J. G. Corin.

Councillor W. E. Cowan-Dickie.

Councillor A. J. Gribble.

Councillor W. G. Paul.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

W. K. DUNSCOMBE.M.D.,M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

L. E. A. B. FARR.L.M.S.S.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

A. T. HARPER. M.R.San.I.,F.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

R. E. WARBURTON. Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B. &
Cert.R.S.I.Meat & Food
Inspection.

W. G. STEVENSON. Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B. &
Cert.R.S.I.Meat & Food
Inspection.



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Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Penzance.

The MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS,
BOROUGH of PENZANCE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1953 and in doing so to offer some comments.

As far as the general health of the community is concerned this was reasonably satisfactory but many events have occurred which touch the inhabitants of your Borough closely. Among the social events a highlight was the visit to the then Alverton estate by H. R. H. the Princess Royal. This took place in May and she graciously allowed the estate to be named after her.

Next in importance was the effort made by the three Councils affected to get some progress in the Drift Scheme by a visit to the Ministry. Unfortunately we have not even now got on as fast as could be desired.

An event calculated to cause a disturbance in Local Government circles here was the presentation by the Borough of St. Ives of a Memorial to the appropriate Ministry to incorporate the parish of Hayle situated in the West Penwith Rural District. This resulted in a full blown Public Inquiry heard with monumental patience by an Engineering Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and most excellently reported day by day by the local press. The proposal has been rejected by the Minister but unfortunately some of the Local Government units assisting in the defence of the Rural District Council's territory were too evidently actuated by self-interest, and the parrot cry by the County Council that "the time is inopportune" is merely an excuse to do nothing.

The growing chorus of complaint regarding sewage disposal led to a deputation being sent to the Ministry which will be reported upon next year. It did, however, give the public an idea that the Council was becoming alive to the nuisance which has been created all these years.

Good progress has been made on the Boscathnoe filtration scheme and finally the Council has gone ahead with the development of some of the derelict sites in the town by building flats. Housing has made good progress and though all measures for environmental hygiene are expensive the inhabitants of this Borough can think that they are getting as much for their money as anywhere else.

The point must be made here that projected legislation must inevitably make for greater work for all Local Authorities. A great deal of this will fall in

the first place on the Health Departments though almost all the other Departments will be affected either at the same time or subsequently. It is impossible, therefore, to see that any reduction in expenditure is likely to occur while present boundaries and methods of finance obtain. In this connection no proper allowance seems to be made by the Government for the fact that in seaside resorts the population with all its attendant problems is greatly increased for three months of the year. It is impossible to take on trained staff for the summer period only, and therefore it means that the remainder which is obviously kept as small as possible during the other months has to cope with the summer problems. In the more rural areas the position is even worse.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their untiring interest and the other Chief Officers for their co-operation. I am especially grateful to my colleagues of the Public Health Department who have worked excellently and have been of the greatest help to me.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area - 3,578 acres.

Population - 20,000. (Registrar-General's estimate,
mid-year 1953).

Rateable Value - £137,068.

Product of Penny Rate - £545. 16s. 0d.

<u>No. of Livebirths:</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	118	112	230
Illegitimate	3	10	13

Rate per 1,000 population: 12.15

<u>No. of Stillbirths:</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 population: 8.2

<u>No. of Deaths:</u>	Male	Female	Total
	135	148	283

Rate per 1,000 population: 14.15

<u>No. of Infant Deaths:</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 livebirths: 45.2

Maternal Deaths - Nil.

COMMENT.

1. No death took place which was ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

2. The infant mortality rate is considerably higher than for the two previous years but it is of importance to note that all the deaths were in infants under four weeks of age, thus giving further point to the need for care in pregnancy, compatibility of blood between mother and baby, (two cases were lost because this was not paid the attention it merits), and as four very young babies died because of malformation present at birth, further investigation into the causes for this.

At the same time on the credit side it must be said that as this year no infant death occurred after the first month, it may be perhaps taken as an encouraging feature of our health propaganda as deaths after the first month are very largely preventable.

SECTION B

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	2	6
Syphilitic Disease	-	1	1
Cancer of stomach	3	4	7
Cancer of lung, bronchus	4	-	4
Cancer of breast	-	4	4
Cancer of uterus	-	5	5
Cancer of other sites	14	12	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	21	32
Coronary disease, angina	19	16	35
Hypertension with heart disease	5	4	9
Other heart disease	24	37	61
Other circulatory disease	6	4	10
Influenza	-	3	3
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Bronchitis	1	7	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2	6
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	6
Congenital malformations	1	3	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	6	21
Accidents (not motor)	6	3	9
Suicide	1	3	4
All causes	135	148	283

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Heart Disease	48	57	105
2. Cancer	21	25	46
3. Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	21	32

(A comparison with previous years appears in Appendix C)

SECTION C

CLIMATE 1953

	Mean Max.	Min.	Absolute Max.	Min.	Rain Ins.	Sun Hrs.
	Degrees					
January	45	40	52	30	1.42	73.2
February	48	39	52	31	1.89	93.7
March	52	40	59	34	1.26	178.2
April	55	43	64	36	2.72	208.7
May	60	51	71	42	2.87	207.8
June	65	54	77	44	1.93	219.7
July	66	56	76	50	5.23	254.1
August	68	56	74	51	2.40	220.6
September	65	55	73	47	4.10	181.3
October	60	49	66	40	2.70	138.1
November	56	48	59	40	2.22	76.4
December	54	49	58	38	1.11	54.6

<u>Yearly averages for rain and sun.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>Average.</u>
Rainfall	29.85	40.9
Sunshine	1906.4	1672.0

In 1953 the rainfall was the lowest since 1921 (28.78 ins.) and the second lowest since records began in 1896.

I am indebted to the Borough Meteorologist - Mr. J.H.I.Cable, A.L.A. for the above figures.

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA(1) Water Supplies.

The following is an estimate of houses (a) without a water supply in the Borough, (b) those with a standpipe supply, and (c) with mains supply.

	(a)No Public Supply	(b)From Standpipe	(c)Mains
1952	28	80	6121
1953	28	78	6240

The above figures are supplied by the courtesy of the Borough Engineer.

The number of samples taken for analysis was as hereunder:-

Samples	Supplies					
	Drift		Boscathnoe		Others	
	Domestic	Works	Domestic	Works	Public	Private
Raw	-	1	-	-	11	2
Treated	24	24	53	52	21	-
Chemical	4	1	1	2	3	-
Plumbo-Solvency	1	-	1	-	-	-

In general the supplies were well maintained though towards the end of the year unusually dry conditions obtained. These are likely to have severe repercussions next summer.

(i). Boscathnoe. Here very considerable progress was made in the construction of the necessary filtration scheme though a snag was met in the preparation of the foundations of the clear water tank and filter house due to some very wet clay of considerable depth. This has been overcome and it is now possible to look forward to a final solution of all the water troubles from this source.

(ii). Drift. Supplies were good and though one bad result was recorded no possible reason for this could be found. It is of interest that this was reported at a time when the chlorine residual was 0.2 p.p.m. A special note on the Drift Scheme is given below.

(iii). Heamoor. This source became contaminated and was taken out of supply which was maintained from Drift. The reservoir was thoroughly cleaned, washed down with bleach and after satisfactory preliminary tests had been made, the supply was turned on again. However the source is from springs in a field to which cattle have access and I consider that such incidents are likely to recur. They could be abolished by a permanent connection from Drift to the reservoir.

(iv). Gulval. Supplies here were satisfactory but no progress has been made in roofing the reservoir which remains in the dilapidated and even dangerous condition in which it has been for several years. Almost every year a figure is put in the draft estimates for repairing the roof and each year it is deleted.

(v). Drift Scheme. This was due for a little progress so in March officials from the three Councils concerned visited the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in company with the Consulting Engineers to get some guidance as to procedure. Parliamentary Agents were then appointed to draft the necessary orders for the acquisition of the land and for the formation of the Joint Committee to manage the Dam and Headworks.

One of the proposals was to reduce the compensation water from 500,000 gallons per day as provided in the Penzance Water Act of 1938 to 300,000 gallons per day as this would have meant a reduction in the height of the Dam and lessened its cost by about £15,000.

An informal draft was sent to the Ministry in October but progress was impeded by the presentation of a Memorial already mentioned to the Ministry by the St. Ives Borough Council to incorporate the parish of Hayle. This meant a Public Inquiry which was heard early in December and it was very evident that the impact of such a proposal on the finances of the West Penwith Rural District Council and so on its ability to pay its share of the cost of the Dam and Headworks was so great as to necessitate the most careful consideration.

The Ministry's decision on the draft proposals was not sent until Christmas and meant that the orders had to be altered and replaced by a bulk supply agreement in which Penzance Borough would act as suppliers, though the Joint Committee which was proposed could still remain in being.

Further instructions had to be sent to revert to the original idea of 500,000 gallons per day compensation water.

(2) Sewerage.

The chorus of complaints regarding the disposal of sewage in the Borough increased considerably by the Autumn and imperious demands were made for improvement. The arrangements are especially bad in the Newlyn area where no less than eight outfalls discharge into the harbour above high water mark mean tides, and complaints were made both by the Harbour Commissioners and by the Port Health Authority. Though I have reported on these matters for several years, this year there was an unanimity of complaint which made it essential for something to be done. It was therefore decided to send a deputation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to consider proposals for dealing with the sewage of the whole Borough.

As far as this is concerned it is evident that its collection and pumping to one outfall or treatment works will be so prohibitive in cost as to make virtually certain that nothing will be done. However, subject to certain float tests and to tests for proper support for the sewers it is financially possible for the Council to combine the Newlyn sewers into the one from Tolcarne and extend this out to deep water, and at the same time to deal with the one from Laregan which is a potent cause of nuisance on the Western Beach. It would also be possible to extend the sewer at the Albert Pier which now discharges immediately outside the pier, the resulting fouling being very evident. In the case of Newlyn and Laregan it will almost certainly be necessary to include disintegration in the preliminary treatment, in spite of the fact that in 1947, for no obvious reason, the Ministry were not in favour of the proposed disintegrators for the Laregan and Chyandour outfalls.

(3) Infectious Diseases.

The year saw rather a varied pattern of infectious disease. In the first place it was a measles epidemic year and no less than 418 cases were notified, though even this figure was not so great as in 1951. Looking at the Penwith peninsula as a whole it does appear that after the disturbance of its rhythm due to war-time evacuation, measles is getting back to its usual biennial incidence. However, in this area it presents certain remarkable features which I hope to record elsewhere.

Next the town had its usual preventable cases of diphtheria in un-immunised children. Such cases are quite unnecessary and it is hoped that soon the social conscience of the country will be sufficiently stimulated as to regard the occurrence of a case in an un-

immunised child as cruelty since it means that the child is being exposed to unnecessary suffering.

Once more the slow rhythm of scarlet fever started, again as previously, in the Newlyn area. Many cases had so ephemeral a rash that often it was not taken any notice of; other cases with sore throats had no rash at all. There can be little doubt, however, that they were all due to the same quite common type of organism and it is becoming extremely questionable whether scarlet fever as such should continue to be notifiable.

Finally two girls in a party from the Grammar School after a visit to France developed paratyphoid fever. The possibilities of a large outbreak were considerable and we were extremely fortunate that worse did not befall us. The incident is described in a special appendix.

Whooping Cough Prevention. As a preventive measure and bearing in mind that whooping cough is the main cause of death in children from 1-5 years the County Council decided to offer inoculation against it to all parents with children under 5. In order to save a multiplicity of injections it can be given in combination with injections against diphtheria. By this means the wise parent does his or her best to ensure that the child is as little attacked with preventable disease as possible.

As usual full details of all notified cases in the whole area are given in Appendix A.

Tuberculosis Prevention. An important step forward in the scheme of prevention of tuberculosis was taken by the County Council. The parents of children in the 13-14 year age group were written to and offered B.C.G. vaccination wherever test showed it would be advisable. This is quite a considerable business in that there has to be a preliminary test, an X-ray of the chest of those who are positive, B.C.G. vaccination of those negative and then six weeks later another test to see if the result of the vaccination is satisfactory. By the end of the year the results were:-

<u>No. Mantoux</u> <u>Tested</u>	<u>No. -ve.</u>	<u>No. given</u> <u>B.C.G.</u>	<u>No. given</u> <u>post-vac.</u> <u>test</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>+ve.</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>-ve.</u>
292	270	261	250	141	7

(4) Housing.

In general good progress was made with the re-housing scheme and 92 Council houses were built and 18 by private enterprise. The visit of the Princess Royal in May set the seal on the development of Alverton and she has consented to allow this estate to be called the Princess Royal Estate.

A further and very welcome development has been the commencement of the building of flats at Navy Inn Court and at Prospect Place thus utilising some of the derelict spaces in the town. The Navy Inn Court flats should enable the Council to complete the demolition of a number of houses in Newlyn included in confirmed

Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders before the war which for one reason or another have not been pulled down. The Council have not yet faced their obligations fully in this and it is greatly to be hoped the proposed patching in the New Bill will not be regarded as an excuse for further delay.

There has been a lot of discussion up and down the country on the cost of building Council houses but it would in all probability pay the Councils to offer their tenants more substantial inducements to buy their own houses than is now possible under the various statutes.

Evicted Families. During the year a conference took place at County Hall ostensibly to try and arrive at a solution of the problem of what to do with families evicted from Council houses. Inevitably the whole question of the accommodation of problem families was brought up. This is an extremely difficult matter as the interests of the County Council and of District Councils are in conflict as on the one hand any Part III accommodation the County Council may have is full to overflowing while on the other, District Councils cannot and must not be deprived of the weapon of eviction for unsuitable tenants.

Since obviously persons are not evicted from Council houses without a very good reason the only common-sense solution was that put forward by this Borough and the neighbouring authority of West Penwith Rural District which is to accommodate such families in sub-standard houses allowing them to "graduate" into Council houses when they have re-habilitated themselves sufficiently to do so. This proposal did not get as much backing from the Ministry's representatives who attended the conference as might have been expected, while there was a good deal of smug self-righteous indignation by others at such a proposal. The conference was inconclusive and ended up by the setting up of yet another committee "to study the question".

I have mentioned these problem families on several occasions but it is quite certain that the hard core of these social misfits, which is what we have now reached, must be made and encouraged to help themselves and must learn the hard way if necessary.

(5) Care of the Aged.

Although this is a national problem in my opinion owing to the numerous bodies who wish or have the right to a say in dealing with it, we are now reaching a stage where there is a danger of 'too many cooks spoiling the broth'.

It is of such wide extent that neither official bodies nor voluntary ones by themselves are able to cope with its multifarious facets. One of the first is money. The Old Age Pension is not enough to live on and very many have to apply to the Assistance Board. A second is housing. Suitable accommodation if built new is expensive to the community and it might be better to give a housing allowance to those old people whether living alone or two together who wish to stay in their

present accommodation. Medical and nursing attendance is needed especially in the winter. Home Helps are required and particularly the assistance of good neighbours - used as a generic term to include workers from various voluntary societies, to see to shopping, books etc., and keeping a kindly and interested eye on them so that the requisite assistance of whatever kind can be summoned at once.

It is thus obvious that such an idea can only possibly succeed by a partnership between officialdom, be it National Assistance Board, the Welfare Authority under the National Assistance Act, and the District Council, and the various voluntary bodies e.g. W.V.S., Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance, Churches etc., and the essential problem is one of co-ordination.

It must be pointed out that in this town there is a number of old people living alone, and though many keep their homes as clean as a new pin, others do not, but the deterioration in their living conditions is to them so gradual as to be almost imperceptible. All it means is that each day the task of cleaning their room, getting and preparing food, lighting the fire etc., becomes a little less easy and more liable to be put off till the next day. It only then requires some incident such as a fall, a stroke or something similar or even the development of such a homely complaint as bronchitis to precipitate matters even though the neighbours are kindness itself. It is a pity that "liable relatives" are not now liable. No Home Help Service can take the place of their responsibility and a great dis-service was done by the Government of the day in its anxiety to get rid of the stigma of Poor Law in taking away from "liable relatives" their duty to their older kith and kin. There is now much too great a tendency to let someone else have the job and it is time the pendulum swung back a bit.

(6) National Assistance Act.

In the case of one female patient the order was continued as usual at three-monthly intervals. The score for renewals in this one case now is no less than 10. Action under the provisions of the Amendment Act had to be taken in the case of two persons - brother and sister. The male patient was so ill that he died about two days after urgent removal to hospital.

(7) Food Hygiene.

This subject is of perpetual interest as it almost always comes down to the human element which in so many cases has been "conditioned" by the psychology of the war and immediate post-war years. Then it was a seller's market and any person who complained about the condition, handling, packing (if any) of any article of food whatever, was more or less told - take it or leave it. Now, this is changing, and it is up to the housewives first and other customers as well to demand satisfactory conditions. At the same time they are not expected to handle food which they don't intend to buy or to bring dogs into food shops of any description.

In the general consideration of the problem it is hoped that it will be possible to do something about some of the "transport" cafes which are dotted around the countryside. The long-distance lorry drivers, who are as a class the most courteous and best drivers in the country, deserve a great deal better than they are getting in many places.

(8) Swimming Bath.

This is the finest open-air pool in Cornwall and when open is a perpetual attraction, but it has, however unfortunately a drawback as the bath which is on the fill and draw system cannot be emptied on neap tides, the bottom is only partly concreted, the rest being mud and shingle, and the water is not treated. The difficulty of dealing with this bath is its size - it holds about 2 million gallons and therefore the consequent filter, chlorination, and pumping machinery would be costly.

The Council propose to make a start to deal with the mud and shingle at the bottom by concreting it over in 1955. This would at once give a much better appearance and also enable it to be cleaned properly. If at the same time a diving well of the requisite depth could be constructed with a proper high board, this would then enable the Borough to stage full-scale diving championship matches with their spectacular events from the top board. These could not but add interest to any events staged in the pool and so draw the revenue-producing crowds. Here as in so many amenity items in a seaside resort money has to be expended first.

(9) Crematorium.

This proposal as in so many other cases where several Local Authorities are concerned is not progressing very rapidly. One snag after another is discovered, yet the facts are quite simple. There is no crematorium nearer at present than Efford, at Plymouth. Every year the number of bodies cremated is increasing, and with the enormous amount of good land taken for cemeteries it might reasonably be imagined that the development of so seemly and hygienic a method of disposal of the dead would be encouraged as far as possible. In the meantime we can hope for further progress in the Cornish proposal.

R E P O R T

O F

T H E

C H I E F S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R .

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Penzance.

The MAYOR, ALDERMEN, and COUNCILLORS,
BOROUGH of PENZANCE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the section of the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1953, relating to the work of the Sanitary Department and would again express my appreciation of the manner in which the staff both indoor and outdoor carried out the many onerous duties with such satisfactory results. To them, and to my colleagues in other Departments who have co-operated most willingly as occasion demanded, I wish to express my sincere thanks.

A summary of the work of the Department is shown in the table of visits and inspections which forms Appendix G of the report.

I am indebted to the Divisional Inspector of the County Council's Weights and Measures Department for the table which appears as Appendix I and shows the record of samples taken in the Borough under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his sustained interest and helpful criticism throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. T. HARPER.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(1) Food and Drugs Administration.

Much time has been given to this important aspect of Public Health work and one of the effects of the continued contact with traders is shown in the improved standards in milk and ice cream production as illustrated by the excellent reports received on samples submitted to the laboratory. The facilities provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Pathological Department of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary have been utilised for the examination of samples taken during the year.

Meat inspection, too, as in previous years, has received very considerable attention involving long hours of overtime work at most seasons of the year.

The County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the formal sampling of foodstuffs for adulteration and the results of examinations of samples taken within the Borough are shown in Appendix I.

During the holiday season attention was given to food preparation in boarding houses and hotels in addition to restaurants and the table in the summary of work shows the large number of visits made for this purpose.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. In view of the very good reports on samples taken during 1952, it was not expected that an improvement on that year's figure would be reported in the Annual Report for 1953, but the grading of samples exceeded expectations to a remarkable degree. Only 3% of samples tested fell below Grade 2 and none were classified in Grade 4.

	1953	1952
No. of samples taken.....	72	84
No. of Samples tested.....	66	84
No. returned in Grade 1.....	53	58
No. returned in Grade 2.....	11	12
No. returned in Grade 3.....	2	14
No. returned in Grade 4.....	Nil	Nil

Fat content tests were carried out on 18 of the samples and 3 of these failed to reach the prescribed minimum standard. The failures were reported to the Divisional Inspector of the County Council's Weights and Measures Department for formal sampling under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

At the end of the year there were 6 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream and 67 premises for sale only.

Milk & Dairies Regulations. Since the introduction of a bottled milk supply for the Borough as reported in the Annual Report for 1951, the number of dairy premises selling loose milk has declined and today most registered premises are used only for the deposit of bottled milk supplied by one or more wholesalers.

The number of dairymen or milk distributors registered by the Council is 31 and 25 dairy premises are registered.

Samples from all sources of supply retailed in the Borough were taken monthly in 1953 and the results are tabled below:-

<u>Samples taken.</u>	<u>No. which failed</u> <u>Methylene Blue</u> <u>Test.</u>	<u>% Failures.</u>
Designated 52	4	7.7%
Non-Designated 32	3	9.0%

Clean Food Campaign. The information required by the Minister of Health, as requested by Circular 1/54, dated 12th. January, 1954, is set out below:-

(i) No. of food premises in the Borough:-

Butchers	35	Sweets & Confectionery	26
Manufactur-		Hotels, Restaurants	
ing Butchers	17*	Cafes & Snack Bars	66
Bakers	21	Dairies	25
Fish-friers	20*	Licensed Premises	42
Grocers	84	Wet fish shops	8
Fruiterers &		Wine & Spirit	
Greengrocers	27	Merchants	2
		Ice Cream Premises	73*

(ii) No. of registered premises in Borough:-

(a) Under Sec.14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938
(See * in (i) above) 110

(b) Under Milk & Dairies Regulations 25

(iii) The number of inspections of all types of food premises is shown in the summary of visits and inspections in Appendix G.

(iv) No new educational activity in the form of clean food guilds or otherwise was undertaken during the year.

(v) Condemned food has been disposed of by one of two methods, i.e. unsound and diseased meat has been taken to the premises of Cornish Fish Products Ltd. at Stable Hobba where it was rendered down for use with other artificial manures; other foodstuffs in small quantities have been taken to the Council's refuse tip for burial.

(2) Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948.

The Department's activities under the above Acts are summarised in the copy of the Annual Return as sent to the Minister of Labour and National Service and which appears as Appendix F at the end of the report.

Only minor defects had to be dealt with during the year.

(3) Housing.

The major work in this field has been in connection with investigations into claims for points under the Council's Points Scheme. Often these revealed bad conditions due either to overcrowding or dis-repair.

A few Demolition Orders were made and in some cases houses were brought up to a reasonable standard by using the provisions of the Housing Act, but in the majority of cases defects were dealt with as nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1936.

It is hoped that an early re-adjustment of the rent system will enable the Authority to pursue a more realistic housing campaign using the full powers of the Housing Acts rather than having recourse to "make do and mend" measures by means of Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936.

(4) Refuse Collection & Disposal.

No major change took place in the cleansing service during the year.

The acquisition of a 10 cubic yard refuse collection vehicle enabled tests to be made to see whether larger machines could be used in all parts of the Borough. Having checked this, preliminary arrangements were made to substitute a lesser number of large machines for the existing 7 cubic yard lorries, five of which have been employed. It is hoped that when this change is effected an appreciable saving will result in the rate levied for this service.

Steps were also taken to find a more economical site for the disposal of refuse and by the end of the year considerable progress had been made towards this end.

The estimated weight of refuse collected during the year, based on monthly test weighings, was 6,240 tons, all of which was disposed of by controlled tipping at the Eastern Green Site.

All domestic premises received a weekly collection and business premises were visited more frequently according to the nature and quantity of the refuse to be removed, e.g. fish shops received a daily collection.

The overall cost of collection for the year was £8,000 and for disposal £5,000. The latter figure included a sum of £1,600 (approx.) for the provision of top soil, levelling out and seeding the completed area ready for return to agricultural use.

(5) Sewerage & Sanitation.

The work of converting earth closets to the water carriage system has proceeded slowly and residents in areas where new sewers have been provided have been encouraged to make better use of these amenities.

In all, 6 earth closets were converted, 15 new W. C's were provided and 2 cesspools were abolished.

(6) Rodent Control.

One full-time Rodent Operator was employed during the year. Methods of treatment were strictly in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

recommendations and included poisoning and trapping.

No charges were made for the treatment of dwelling-houses.

In addition to treatments for surface infestation, two treatments of the sewers of the Borough were carried out and also a 10% 'Test Bait' of the whole system. Sixty-nine manholes were baited.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during 1953:-

Local Authority	Dwelling- houses	Agricul- tural	All other including business & industrial	Total	
No. of proper- ties in- spected.	58	252	61	337	708
No. of proper- ties found to be in- fested.	22	96	25	29	172
No. of proper- ties treated by Local Authority.	22	96	-	29	147

(7) Disinfection & Disinfestation of Premises, etc.

Premises treated following cases of infectious disease have been fumigated with formaldehyde vapour and bedding from the same dealt with in the steam disinfectors at the West Cornwall Hospital by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.

No trouble was experienced from bug infestation, but a number of premises found to be infested with fleas were treated with Gammexane smoke or powder. Houses de-requisitioned by the Council were treated by this method as a routine procedure.

APPENDIX A

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(Corrected Notifications.)

1953.

Disease.	Penzance	St. Ives	West Penwith	St. Just.
Scarlet Fever	25	17	8	-
Whooping Cough	21	28	78	1
Measles	418	7	188	128
Diphtheria	3	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	7	-
Acute Encephalitis	2	1	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-
Rheumatic Fever	3	-	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	3	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic)	-	-	1	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

1953.

Area	Number of Children who completed a full course of immunisation in 1953.			Number of Children receiving Refresher Doses
	Under 5	5-14	Total	
Penzance	223	36	259	233
St. Ives	77	8	85	145
West Penwith	192	51	243	235
St. Just	39	6	45	109

APPENDIX B. TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS & DEATHS. 1953.

	Nos on Reg. at 31.12.53	Yrs. 1-5	Yrs. 5-15	Yrs. 15-20	Yrs. 20-25	Yrs. 25-35	Yrs. 35-45	Yrs. 45-65	Over 65	TOTAL
PENZANCE										
Pul.M	91				1	3	1(1)	5(4)		10(5)
Pul.F	60	1		1	4		2(1)	(1)		6(2)
Non-Pul.M	11									2
Non-Pul.F	12		1			1		1	(1)	3(1)
WEST PENWITH										
Pul.M	49				2			3(2)	(2)	5(4)
Pul.F	43			1	2	2	1	(1)		6(1)
Non-Pul.M	15	1	1					1		3
Non-Pul.F	14	(1)	1			1			(1)	2(2)
ST. JUST										
Pul.M	25	1(1)		1		1	1	2(2)	(3)	6(6)
Pul.F	18							1		1
Non-Pul.M	2		1							1
Non-Pul.F	2									1
ST. IVES										
Pul.M	34	1	1	1			2	1(1)	(1)	6(2)
Pul.F	21				2	1	2			5
Non-Pul.M	5							1	2	3
Non-Pul.F	5									1

TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS : 59

TOTAL DEATHS : 23

APPENDIX C
COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>Penzance</u>				
<u>Year</u>	1950	1951	1952	1953
Population	20,210	20,030	19,940	20,000
Total Deaths	335	312	280	283
<u>Principal Causes of Death:</u>				
Heart Disease	132	94	95	105
Cancer	56	52	54	46
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	39	37	32	32
Pneumonia	18	15	7	10
T.B.Resp.	11	8	2	6
Other Circulatory Diseases	21	14	14	10
Infant Mortality Rate	70.0	40.4	34.2	45.2

APPENDIX D
HOUSING

The following shows the houses under the control of the Council at the end of the year 1953:-

Parc Wartha	58
Penalverne	170
Gwavas	242
Treneere	397
Temporary Bungalows	50
Princess Royal Estate	361
Mousehole	9
Finance properties	32
Miscellaneous tenancies	69
Quarterly & Monthly tenancies	13
Requisitioned tenancies	19(6 pending release)
Total	<u>1420</u>

No. of Houses built by Council	No. of Houses built by Private Enterprise
92	18

APPENDIX E

REPORT ON CASES OF PARATYPHOID.

On the 3th September, 1953 I received a report from the West Cornwall Hospital that a girl who had been admitted the previous day was found to be suffering from a Paratyphoid B infection. Enquiries were made at once and it appeared that she had been ill in bed from the 18th August, the complaint being mostly of headache, fever and constipation. She had subsequently been seen in consultation by the Consulting Physician on two occasions and after the second he advised removal to Hospital on September 7th.

The girl was one of a party of three mistresses and thirty-six girls from a Grammar School who went to Paris at the end of July, were involved in the French General Strike and returned (all but one) to England on the 9th August.

The party stayed in two Paris hotels, 24 in one and 15 in the other. In both parties some of the girls had had diarrhoea while in Paris. From one of the mistresses I was also given the names of some of the girls who had had this intestinal upset and especial mention was made of another girl who lived in the West Penwith Rural District who had been ill in bed for some time.

This second girl's mother was visited when it appeared that the girl also had had an illness very suggestive of paratyphoid. She had been attended by her own Doctor and also by a Consultant Physician.

Instructions were given to the parents that the girl who was then convalescing with her aunt at a little village about four miles away should come home so that treatment if necessary could be instituted.

As the result of one confirmed and one suspected case being discovered together with the history of intestinal upset in several other people in the party it was decided after consultation with the Pathologist, West Cornwall Hospital and the Consulting Physician to regard the whole party as contacts and try and obtain specimens of blood and faeces from each person. A list of the family Doctors was obtained and a circular sent to all practitioners in the district mentioning the one confirmed and one suspected case and the intestinal upset in a number of the others, and asking their co-operation in obtaining the blood specimens.

Each family was visited and the position explained, particularly as regards the stool specimens. In spite of this several girls submitted samples of urine, though this was subsequently rectified. A complication existed in that the school recommenced on Thursday, the 10th September and the three mistresses constituted the entire modern language staff, so that although contacts were excluded until the rough screening tests proved negative there was considerable educational pressure to let the staff members return.

Samples of blood and faeces obtained from the second girl were positive.

The blood tests of the remainder proved negative and since none was inoculated it would seem that this rough screening test was a reasonable guide and all those negative to both were accordingly allowed back to school.

A serious difficulty was the fact that a number of the girls on their return home had worked in guest houses, grocers' shops, cafes, etc., no less than eleven out of the thirty-six being associated with the food handling business in some way. In view of the immense number of visitors that had come to the whole affected district in the period until the Health Department was informed the risk of spread was very great indeed. As a final complication one girl who stayed behind in Paris and did not return until the 5th September developed some spots. She had not been vaccinated but on examination I was reasonably sure that they were due to papular urticaria.

An interesting point is that in the family of the girl who was admitted to Hospital none of the specimens was positive although the mother had been nursing her for nearly three weeks (including bed-panning) and had been carrying on her usual household duties as well.

Source of Infection.

No cases of Paratyphoid B had occurred in Cornwall and it is therefore reasonable to assume that the infection was contracted in France. The two hotels at which the girls stayed were both of good class and we were informed that only breakfast consisting of coffee and rolls was taken in the hotel and that some of the other meals were taken in the University Club. It would seem unlikely that the infection was contracted in these places and its source remains undetected.

APPENDIX F

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	In-spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	47	96	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	90	139	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	6	6	-	-
TOTAL	143	241	6	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. In- spectors	By H.M. In- spectors	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	8	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	4	4	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	17	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Out-work

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1), (c).	No. of Cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.,	4	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX G

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE
SANITARY DEPARTMENT

1. Complaints which received attention	175
2. <u>Public Health Act, 1936.</u>	
Drains inspected	184
Drains tested with water	52
Drains tested with smoke	7
Drains found defective	46
Drainage work in progress	162
Drains repaired	33
New drains provided	14
Water closets inspected	27
Water closets found defective	9
Water closets repaired or renewed	4
New water closets provided	15
Earth or pail closets converted	6
Cesspools abolished	2
Eaves gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	3
Dampness abated	5
Minor repairs effected	33
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	2
Nuisances from accumulations abated	20
Inspections in connection with nuisances	438
Nuisances at workplaces abated	1
Premises found to be verminous	14
Treatments carried out	31

Public Health Act, 1936.(contd)

Infectious Disease enquiries carried out	101
Premises disinfected	39
Bedding and clothing taken to steam disinfector	3
Visits re water supply	130
Premises provided with water supply	1
Water samples taken (a) bacteriological	188
(b) chemical	12
Visits re removal of refuse (a) Trade	32
(b) Domestic	32
Visits to refuse tips	192
Public Convenience inspections	120
Offensive trades inspections	29
Inspections of sanitary accommodation at licensed premises, catering establishments and places of entertainment	53
Inspections of streams and watercourses	97
Inspections of camping sites	33
General inspections of district	47
 3. <u>Housing Act.</u>	
Inspections under Section 9	13
Unfit houses made fit	7
Inspections under Section 11	86
Inspections under Section 12	6
Inspections under Section 25	20
Premises found to be overcrowded	2
Visits in connection with housing applications	60
Miscellaneous visits	109
Demolition and Closing Orders made	3
 4. <u>Food and Drugs Act.</u>	
Food preparing premises inspected	150
Food stores and shops inspected	610
Fish markets, stalls and stores inspected	149
Restaurants, restaurant kitchens and mobile canteens	211
Licensed premises inspected	39
Ice cream premises inspected	108
Bakehouses inspected	68
Fried Fish Shops inspected	51
Visits to markets	323
Ice cream samples taken	72
Food poisoning enquiries	6
 5. <u>Factories Act.</u>	
Routine inspections carried out	179
Inspections of sanitary accommodation	21
Visits re Means of Escape	5
Visits to outworkers' premises	1
 6. <u>Diseases of Animals Acts.</u>	
Number of visits	3
 7. <u>Shops Acts.</u>	
Routine inspections.	184
 8. <u>Milk and Dairies Administration.</u>	
Inspections of Dairies	127
Milk samples taken (a) designated	62
(b) non-designated	32
 9. <u>Rodent Control.</u>	
Visits to dwelling houses	183

Rodent Control.(contd.)

Visits to business premises	99
Miscellaneous visits	44
Sewer treatments	2

10.Miscellaneous Visits not classified	402
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11.Notices.

(a) Informal - Served	58
Complied with	56

(b) Statutory - Served	2
Complied with	1

APPENDIX H

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Weight T. C. lbs
Number killed	1856	1167	1723	4942	952	
Number inspected	1856	1167	1723	4942	952	
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>						} 18- 1-109
Whole carcasses condemned	3	23	20	19	26	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	472	462	14	591	80	
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis	25.6	41.6	2.0	12.3	11.1	
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						} 28-13-106
Whole carcasses condemned	19	46	2	-	1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	159	308	-	-	55	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	9.6	30.3	0.1	-	5.9	

Total Weight	<u>46-15-103</u>
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No. of visits to slaughterhouses.....2462

OTHER FOOD REJECTED

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Fish.....		2	9
Potatoes.....		6	0
Cooked Meat.....			86
Bacon.....			37
Sugar.....			40
Cheese Spread.....			29
Fresh Fruit.....			110
Dried Fruit.....		1	6
Cereals.....			111
Flour.....		9	25
Split Peas.....			72
Rice.....			45
Biscuits and Cake.....		1	89
Coconut Ice.....			48
Sausages.....		3	74
Canned Goods 5579.....	2	17	26
Glass Packed Goods 398.....		2	2
Other miscellaneous goods.....			67
	<hr/>		
TOTAL WEIGHT	4	8	92
	<hr/> <hr/>		

Total number of Condemnation Certificates issued in respect of meat and other foods:- 1,768.

APPENDIX I

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

<u>Article Sampled</u>	<u>No. Taken</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Adulter- ated</u>
Beef Dripping	1	1	-
Butter	7	7	-
Butter Flav. Sweets	1	1	-
Butter Flav. Marzipan	1	1	-
Chocolate Blancmange	1	1	-
Cooking Fat	1	1	-
Cornish Cream	1	1	-
Coconut Ice	1	1	-
Custard Powder	1	1	-
Dripping	1	1	-
Fish Cakes	2	2	-
Foam Crystals	1	1	-
Ground Almonds	1	1	-
Ice Cream	7	7	-
Jelly Crystals	1	1	-
Jelly Marmalade	1	1	-
Lemonade Powder	1	1	-
Lemon Curd	1	1	-
Malt Vinegar	1	1	-
Milk	44	44	-
Mincemeat	1	1	-
Orange Curd	1	1	-
Orange Squash	1	1	-
B'mange Powder	1	1	-
Pork Brawn	1	1	-
Processed Cheese	1	1	-
Pork Sausages	4	4	-
Pure Dairy Cream	1	1	-
Pure Devon Cream	1	1	-
Rich Cream	1	1	-
Ricory	1	1	-
Saffron Cake Flour Mixt.	1	1	-
Sultanas	1	1	-
Table Jelly	2	2	-
Xmas Pudding	1	1	-
	95	95	-

No adulterated samples were found within the Borough of Penzance during the year.

